

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The present application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed January 12, 2005. Claims 5, 12, 16 and 20-49 are currently pending in the application, claims 1-4, 6-11, 13-15, and 17-19 having been canceled herein, claim 22 having been amended herein, and claims 28-49 having been added herein. Reconsideration of the present application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

It is acknowledged and greatly appreciated that the Examiner has indicated that claims 23-27 are allowed.

It is acknowledged that claims 19-21 and 23-27 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claims, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 5, 12, 16 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,531,410 to Simon.

Claim 22 has been amended herein to include the subject matter of allowable claim 19, as indicated in the Listing of Claims presented above, in order to place claim 22 in condition for allowance. Accordingly, since claims 5, 12, and 16 depend directly or indirectly from claim 22 and contain all of the features of claim 22, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 5, 12, and 16, under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,531,410 to Simon, has been overcome.

New claim 28, presented herein, includes the subject matter of claim 22 and the allowable subject matter of claim 21. Accordingly, claim 28 should be allowable.

Since claims 29-38 depend directly or indirectly from claim 28, it is respectfully submitted that claims 29-38 are also allowable.

New claim 39, presented herein, includes the subject matter of claim 22 and the allowable subject matter of claim 23. Accordingly, claim 39 should be allowable.


Since claims 40-49 depend directly or indirectly from claim 39, it is respectfully submitted that claims 40-49 are also allowable.

In view of the amendments made to the claims, and in view of the remarks presented above, it is respectfully submitted that the objections to the specification and drawings, and each of the rejections of the claims in the present Office Action has been overcome or rendered moot. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner believe that a telephone interview may facilitate prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone Applicants' undersigned representative at the number indicated below.

An early and favorable response is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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